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NEWSLETTER

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OCTOBER 2024

Crestview and Brentwood Neighborhood Associations Host "Meet the New Police Chief, Lisa Davis"

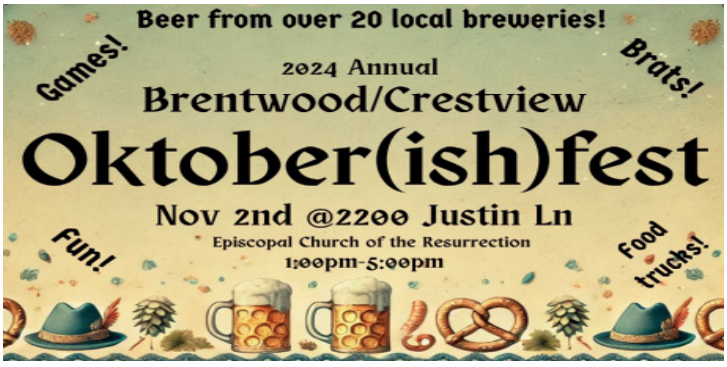
by Chip Harris, Newsletter Editor

Please join the Crestview and Brentwood Neighborhood Associations for a meeting wiht the new police chief, Lisa Davis on Thursday, October 24th, 2024 at 7:00 pm in the Parish Hall of the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, 2008 Justin Lane. (*In support of our medically fragile friends and neighbors, we are encouraging people to wear masks (they will be available) and respect personal space.)*

Why Should I Attend the Meeting?

Chief Davis will have the opportunity to introduce herself and talk about her priorites and vision for the Austin Police Department's future. This will be followed by questions from the attendees.

Our neighborhoods have been in the news recently about several issues: the police shooting on Anderson Lane, the "jugging" (when a perpetrator waits at a bank, ATM, or a store and follows customers in order to steal from them or their car) event involving a pregnant woman at the former Chase Bank location on the northwest corner of Burnet Road and Northcross Drive and the issues relating to a vacant building on Old Koenig Lane that was being occupied by the homeless, to name a few. There have also been recent traffic related fatalities including the death of a pedestrian at the intersection of Lamar Blvd and Brentwood Street and a motorcyclist who was hit and at the intersection of Richcreek Road and Burnet Road by an individual charged with DWI. Attendees might also have questions about community policing, police relations, staff shortages, etc.



Enjoy free beer, sausage dogs and live music. Octoberfest costumes are encouraged. Limited edition commerative cups available for purchase at the event or at neighborhood businesses the week before. More at https://www.facebook.com/events/s/brentwoodcrestview-octoberishf/1195810285487339/

Background

Austin Police Chief Lisa Davis is the second woman in Austin's history to serve as permanent Chief of Police. Her career spans more than three decades with the Cincinnati Police Department, where she served as Assistant Chief and Investigations Bureau Commander, which oversees homicide, major offenders, narcotics, and personal crimes.

Throughout her career, she served in multiple roles, specialized in building community relationships, used problem-solving, and evidence-based policing to address crime and disorder. In Cincinnati, she created a city-wide problem-solving unit trained to address crime and disorder in chronically violent locations, reducing overall crime and increasing the quality of life for community members.

Chief Davis is passionate about community policing and building police legitimacy through community partnerships. By developing a specialized unit, she addressed the at-risk population victimization that includes the LGBTQIA+ community, Latino/Hispanic community, human trafficking victims, and youth experiencing homelessness.

In addition to receiving her bachelor's degree from Xavier University, Chief Davis has received several awards for her work, including Superior Achievement in Law Enforcement and the Award of Valor.

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It's My Park Day is November 2!

It's My Park Day is back for fall on November 2nd, and project registration is open now through November 1st at https://www.givepulse.com/event/486366-Brentwood-Park-TLC-Workday. Join your neighbors and fellow park lovers from 9 am til noon to give Brentwood Park some TLC. We'll do lots of shoveling, mulching, weeding, digging and planting.

As thanks for your help, all volunteers will earn a special edition It's My Park Day t-shirt and access to deals on treats, drinks and experiences from local Giveback Partners.

Austin Parks Department is limiting tools for only 40 volunteers, so neighbors are encouraged to bring their own labeled tools, including wheel barrows, hard rakes, flat shovels, hand tools, pitchforks and gloves. Be sure to bring your water bottle - cold filtered water will be provided under the pavilion - and wear a hat.

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For information and to submit articles contact:
Chip Harris
nlchip@outlook.com
512-458-2488

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CNA Contact Information
P. O. Box 9505, Austin, TX 78766
www.crestviewna.com
CNA General Meetings are held the second Monday of every month at 7:00 PM at the Crestview United Methodist Church, 1300 Morrow St.
Treasurer: joincrestview@gmail.com
Twitter: @CNAneighbors
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Episcopal Church of the Resurrection
2200 Justin Lane
Upcoming Events
• November 2nd - 1:00 PM to 5 PM We will be hosting the neighborhood Oktoberfest. Join us in the garden for a fun-filled day.

• Sunday, November 3rd – All Saint's Day Celebration service with guest musicians Jimi Calhoun and Chris Searles

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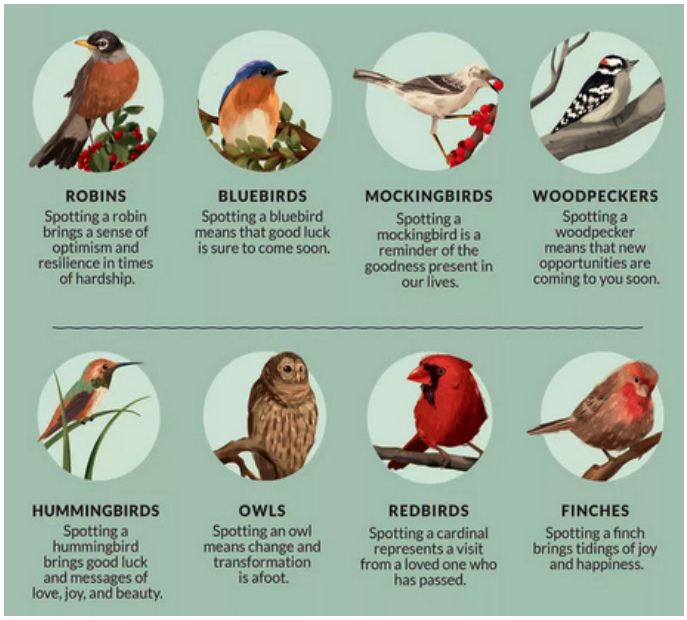
8 Common Birds In Your Backyard And Their Meanings

Because of their incredible abilities and beautiful hues, birds have become symbols with a variety of meanings in many cultures and folklores. There are plenty of other meanings behind bird sightings that have been around for centuries.



Cardinals

Sometimes called "redbirds" because of their eye-cathing hues, these stunning birds are popular during the holidays (think holiday cards), as their bright plumage contrasts beautifully with a wintery atmosphere. According to the Farmer's Almanac, a visit from a cardinal represents a sign from a loved one who has passed. While this belief cannot be traced to a single origin, birds have often symbolized heavenly visitors, messengers to the gods, or even the gods themselves in feathered form.

Woodpeckers

From Downy Woodpeckers to Pileated Woodpeckers, these amazing birds can be heard from far and wide when they're hammering away at trees. In some cultures, woodpeckers symbolize hard work and perseverance. Many people also believe that a woodpecker sighting can symbolize new opportunities knocking at your door.

Robins

These songbirds are known for their orange belly and upright stance when popping around a lawn or garden. Often one of the first birds to return after winter or the first bird sighting you'll see in the morning, Robins are the true "early bird." Because of their peppy nature and posture, some say that spotting a robin brings a sense of optimism and inspiration to be resilient in times of hardship.

Hummingbirds

Blink and you might miss them. Hummingbirds are some of the most impressive creatures we see in our backyards. These beautiful little birds can flap their wings at 70 beats per second and are the only species of bird that is able to fly backwards. While hummingbirds are adept at flying, their tiny legs and feet are less useful and are mainly used for perching. In many Native American cultures, the hummingbird is known as a messenger between the spirit world and the physical world. It is a symbol of love, joy, and beauty, often associated with the sun and its life-giving energy.

Mockingbirds

These lovely gray birds are known for their extrodinary ability to mimic almost anything including other birds, car alarms, frogs, musical instuments, machinery or even your dog.They go on learning new sounds throughout their lives mockingbirds can produce up to 350 unique songs. Mockingbirds also create their own unique vocalizations. One theory is that females prefers males who sing more songs, and a male can top his rivals by quickly adding to his repertoire. In Harper Lee's famed novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*, mockingbirds symbolize innocence, as "it's a sin to kill a mockingbird" since they only seek to add beauty and song into the world.

See Birds, continued on page 5

APD Community Connections Meeting

By Joe Sawicki, Brentwood NA Steering Committee

On June 4, I atteneded a Community Connect Meeting held by APD (Austin Police Department). The meeting covered these four topics:

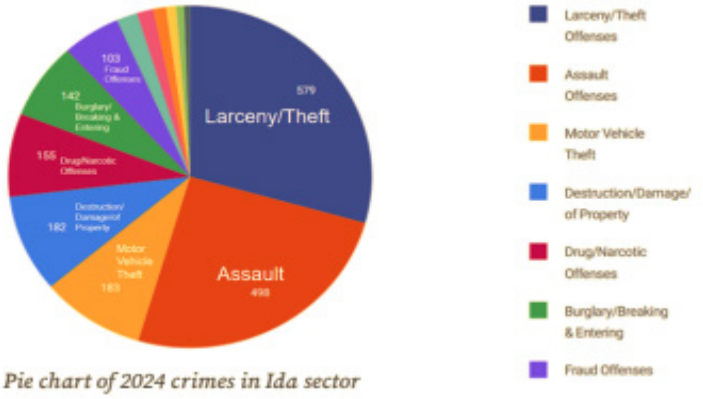
1. Crime statistics, including hot spot maps for 2 of 9 sectors of Austin,as divided by APD. One is named Ida and bounded by 183 and Rutherford on the north, Burnet Road on the west, North Loop on south and Springdale on the east and includes a large portion of Brentwood along with the entire Crestview Neighborhood. The other was Adam sector to the north and includes The Domain and northwest Austin.
2. How to use the NIBRS website to graph crime stats.
3. Training to prepare for an active attack in a workplace, retail area, etc.
4. Questions from the attendees

One recent crime trend for Austin and nationwide is that auto thefts are up significantly over the previous year, partly due to security flaws with certain models.

Crime hot spots tend to be the areas with a lot of people, and include the following places in Ida sector:

- Capital Plaza
- Manor Rd & Rogge Ln
- St. John's & I-35
- ACC area near Airport Blvd

The NIBRs website is used to graph crime statistics. NIBRS stands for National Incident Based Reporting System. It shows all crimes, but doesn't disclose addresses for privacy reasons, whereas APD Crime Viewer shows addresses, but doesn't show certain crimes for privacy reasons. If you have questions about how to use the NIBRS website to see crime graphs, you can email APDOpenDataAssets@austintexas.gov.



Pie chart of 2024 crimes in Ida sector

During the meeting, APD also gave training on how to deal with an active attack in a workplace, retail, or an area with multiple people. Two practical pieces of advice from that training are:

1. Stay off your phone when walking
2. Know where exits are when you go somewhere, such as a work office, movie theater, or restaurant.

Some miscellaneous info that came out of the Q&A (question and answer) portion were that abandoned buildings can present problems throughout the city, and can take years to get plans approved, demolish the old building, and rebuild. There has been at least one example where a neighborhood association was able to convince City Council to demolish an old building earlier, before new plans were completed in order to reduce maintenance, fire hazards, etc. Also, a significant portion of APD DRs' (district representatives') time in recent years has been spent on helping and working with unhoused people. APD plans to hold more public meetings and reconnect with the community soon.

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Coming Soon A Convenience Store Near You - As in Next Door

by Community Not Commodity

As you may be aware, Mayor Watson's council, with the Passage of H.O.M.E. 1 and 2, has eliminated single-family zoning across the city by allowing at least 3 units on every lot and as many as nine or more attached units in neighborhoods with larger lots like Great Hills. However, those involved in city processes are not done deconstructing neighborhoods and displacing residents, not by a longshot.

Now there is a proposal in the works to replace single-family homes with commercial uses without requiring a zoning change. It wasn't enough to authorize lots to be cut up into 1,800 square foot parcels to allow multiple units – now it is being proposed to allow commercial businesses on all single-family lots. The September 2nd agenda for the Zoning and Platting Commission included a resolution to permit commercial businesses on single-family and multi-family residential neighborhood lots. The resolution would allow a wide variety of commercial uses on any lot now zoned for single-family residences or apartments. Here is a list of the uses they feel are appropriate to put next door to you, on your block, or in your apartment building:

- Medical Offices – up to 5,000 sq/ft of gross floor space
- Food Sales
- General Retail Sales (Convenience)
- Pet Services
- Restaurant (Limited)
- Consumer Repair Services
- Personal Services
- Personal Improvement Services
- Guidance Services
- Counseling Services

Look for this initiative to disappear until later this year, when it will re-emerge. Having deregulated the housing density in neighborhoods, they now want to deregulate the uses.

Editor's note: Community Not Commodity supports a diverse Austin with neighborhood-based planning, effective anti-displacement programs, and respect for current residents' property and neighborhoods.

https://communitynotcommodity.com/

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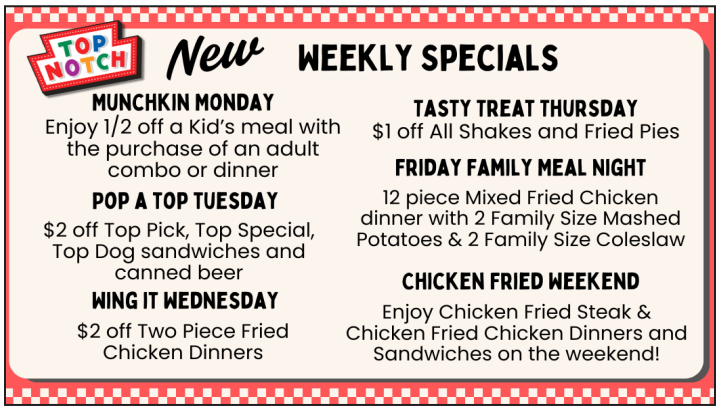
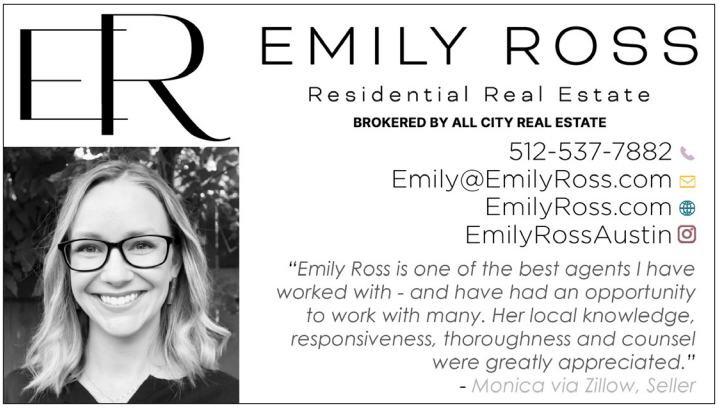
Watch the Brentwood/Crestview District 7 & Mayoral Candidate Forum

If you missed our well-attended Candidate Forum on September 16th – you can watch it here:

- Mayoral Forum: https://vimeo.com/1010621300
  All the candidates attended with the exception of the incumbent, Mayor Kirk Watson, nor did he attend 13 of the other community forums.
- District 7 Forum: https://vimeo.com/1010626623
  All active candidates attended our forum.

Remember early voting begins Monday, October 21, and ends Friday, Novemeber 1st. Most locations are open from 7 am - 7 pm (noon - 6 pm on Sunday), but a few are open until 10 pm. Election Day is Tuesday, November 5th from 7:00 am – 7:00 pm.





Birds, continued from page 2

Spotting a mockingbird is a reminder of the goodness present in our lives.

Owls

There are few creatures as iconic as the owl. From their nocturnal nature to their distinctive sounds, owls of all kinds are magnificent creatures and used in pop culture to represent wisdom and intelligence. Owls may be the most divisive when it comes to their meaning. In some cultures, owls bring bad luck when seen during the day and are an omen of a tragedy coming soon. On the other hand, many believe that seeing an owl will bring change and transformation.

Finches

From House Finches to American Goldfinches, these birds come in a variety of bright colors and can be heard through their cheery songs. Because of their energetic nature and beautiful songs, seeing a finch is said to bring tidings of joy and happiness in many Native American cultures. Celebration is sure to come when finches are in your backyard.

Bluebirds

Severe weather, destruction of nesting habitat, and heavy competition with sparrows and starlings have taken a toll on the bluebirds. But even in the harshest climates or when they have a scarcity of food, these birds still manage to sing cheerfully. Bluebirds have a wide variety of associations across the world, all of which have positive connotations including good luck, joy, happiness and harmony. The bluebird is a symbol of hope, love and positivity.

Guess what? Recent scientific studies have confirmed that seeing and hearing birds makes people happy! So listen to the birds!

Note: Portions of this article are from https://www.southernliving.com/birds-and-their-meanings-8619152 .

Donate Your Gently Used Boxes and Bags to Next to New Consignment!

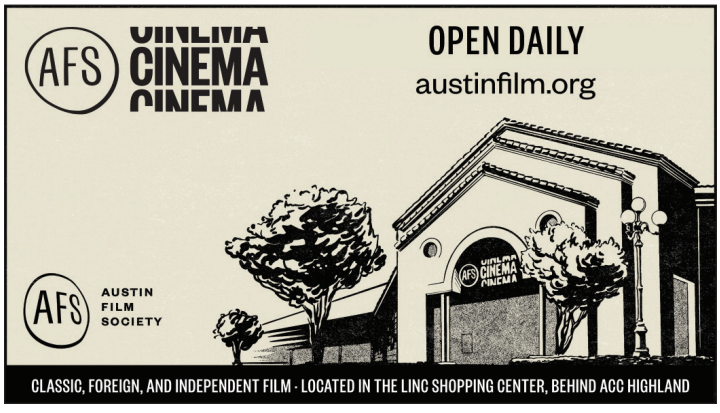
Do you have extra boxes or paper bags taking up space? Help us keep our nonprofit consignment shop thriving by donating your gently used boxes and paper bags! At Next to New, a volunteer-run nonprofit, we proudly support the community by awarding several $10,000 grants each year to local Austin organizations. We rely on these donations to package and display our fantastic selection of items, from vintage clothing to antique home goods.

We're specifically looking for boxes larger than 6 inches on all sides, as anything smaller won't work for us. Please drop off your donations on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am-4pm at the front register, and feel free to spread the word to friends and family! Your contributions significantly enhance our ability to serve the community and fulfill our mission.

We're also seeking passionate volunteers to join our team! If you're interested in making a difference, email our Volunteer Manager at Parysh.Bailey@gmail.com for more information.

Together, we can reduce waste and promote sustainability while supporting those in need. Thank you for your continued support.

Note: Next to New is located at 5435 Burnet Road.



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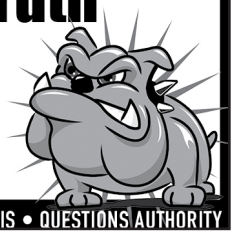

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